

REMARKS

Claims presented for prosecution in this Application are claims 35-46 and 51-62, claims 31-34 and 47-50 being canceled by the present amendment. In view of Applicants' remarks below, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 35-46 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the present Response be considered and entered, the rejections to the claims be withdrawn, and that the case now be passed to issue.

The 35 USC 103(a) Rejection of Claims 31-34 and 47-50 over Fischer in view of Stumbough

The Examiner has rejected claims 31-34 and 47-50 as being obvious over Fischer in view of Stumbough. Applicants respectfully assert that neither Fischer nor Stumbough disclose, either alone or in combination, each and every aspect of independent claims 31 and 47.

Without conceding to the validity of the outstanding rejection, and merely in an attempt to advance prosecution, Applicants have cancelled claims 31-34 and 47-50.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the outstanding rejection is now moot. Withdrawal of the existing rejection of claims 31-34 and 47-50 is therefore earnestly solicited.

Allowed Claims

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 35-46 and 51-62 have been deemed allowable over the cited prior art of record.

As only claims 35-46 and 51-62 currently exist in the case, Applicants respectfully request that the present case be passed to Issue.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 35-46 and 51-62 are allowable, and an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Applicants submit that the present Amendment After Final is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner and contains no new matter. Further, Applicants believe that the present Amendment is merely formal in nature, is in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, reduces the number of issues under consideration and places the case in condition for allowance. Applicants believe the present Amendment was necessitated by the outstanding Final Office Action and submits that the present amendments to the claims were not previously made as the prior claims were believed to be allowable over the cited prior art.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the present Amendment After Final be entered under 37 CFR § 1.116 and the case be passed to issue.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below to expedite resolution of any issues that the Examiner may consider to remain unresolved. In particular, should a Notice of Allowance not be forthcoming, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned for a telephonic interview, an Examiner's Amendment, or the like, while the outstanding issues are fresh in the mind of the Examiner.

It is believed that no fees or deficiencies in fees are owed. However, authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 13-0235 in the event any fees are owed.

Respectfully submitted,

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